REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of November 6, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. Nonetheless, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,173,250 to Jong (hereinafter Jong) in view of U.S. Patent 6,816,578 to Kredo, *et al.* (hereinafter Kredo), and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2004/0049389 to Marko, *et al.* (hereinafter Marko). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jong, in view of Kredo and Marko, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,339,754 to Flanagan, *et al.* (hereinafter Flanagan).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections and thus have not amended the claims.

Aspects of Applicants' Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method of reducing bandwidth requirements in an on-line chat system.

The method can include receiving a speech input from a calling party; transcribing the speech input to a text message in a same language as the speech input; and converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language as the received text

5

message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile. The calling party profile or the called party profile can specify replacing at least a portion of the text message with an alternative text portion having a same meaning as the replaced portion of the text message. The alternative text portion has a shorter length than the replaced portion of the text message.

The method also can include performing data compression to compress the alternative text message prior to transmitting the alternative text message as a data stream defining a text stream; transmitting the text stream to the called party; receiving the alternative text message by the called party as the text stream; and displaying the alternative text message and/or converting the alternative text message into a speech output at the called party substantially in real-time.

See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0021]; see also Fig. 2.

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

It was asserted on page 2 of the Office Action that Jong discloses translating an original text message into another text message ("translating the text data into text data of the selected language ...", col. 9, lines 6-11, FIG. 9 and related text) before converting the translated text into voice ("the text data can be displayed immediately or may be forwarded to the text to speech conversion device . . . where the text data is converted . . . enabling real time speech communication using text data transmission", col. 5, lines 25-33) and Kredo teaches converting a text message to a shorter text message. It was further asserted that it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Kredo's short hand representations in Jong's translation dictionary because using acronym and abbreviations is standard practice for instant messaging systems (Kredo, col. 7, lines 6-8).

However, it is noted that in Jong the speech input signals are (1) converted into text data of the particular language of the speaker; (2) <u>translated into text data of a selected different language</u>; and (3) <u>voice output based on the translated text data in the different language</u>. In contrast, in the present invention, the speech input signals are (1) converted to a text message in a same language as the speech input; (2) <u>converted to an alternative shorter text message in the same language</u> as the text message; and (3) <u>voice output based on the shorter text message in the same language</u>.

Kredo discloses converting recognized speech into an appropriate short hand representation. First, it is noted that a short hand representation (such as the symbol for voice input "SMILE" shown in step 236 of Fig. 3D) is not a shorter text message in the sense of the present invention because a short hand representation is a symbol (rather than a text message) which cannot be converted into a voice output. Second, including Kredo's short hand representations in Jong's translation dictionary does not produce a shorter text message in the same language as in the present invention, but rather text data of a different language with certain short hand representations which are language independent.

Therefore, a combination of Jong and Kredo does not disclose converting the transcribed text message into an alternative shorter text message in the same language and voice outputting based on the shorter text message in the same language, as in the present invention.

The other cited references do not make for the deficiencies as discussed above.

Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 1 defines over the prior art. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

7

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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8